

## **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Agriculture Conference Schedule**

### **Wednesday, March 8**

- 5:30 p.m.      **Registration Begins**
- 6:00 p.m.      **"Celebrate Nebraska Agriculture" Reception**  
The reception will feature Nebraska food products.  
Loper Hall
- 7:00 p.m.      **"Sowing the Seeds of Laughter – humor and optimism for the heart of agriculture."**  
Damian Mason, humorist

Reception and speaker sponsored by  
Farm Credit Services of America.

### **Thursday, March 9**

- 7:30 a.m.      **Registration Begins, Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m.      **Conference Begins**  
Welcome – Greg Ibach, Director Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Opening Comments – Governor Dave Heineman
- "What Do You Get When You Mix Budget Deficits, Doha Round Trade Negotiations and a new Farm Bill? Answer: Change."**  
Jim Wiesemeyer, national agriculture policy analyst with Informa Economics Inc.
- "The Future of Crop Insurance – Where do we go from here?"**  
Stephen Frerichs, crop insurance specialist, AgVantage LLC
- 10:30 a.m.      **Break**
- "Unlocking Your Future, A Glimpse of NAYI"**  
Aaron Kavan, Ag Youth Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

**“Conservation Issues Critical to the Success of the 2007 Farm Bill”**

Krysta Harden, chief executive officer of the National Association of Conservation Districts

**“Federal Policy to Promote Biobased Products”**

Dr. Marvin Duncan, Senior Agricultural Economist, U.S. Department of Agriculture

12:00 p.m.     **Lunch**

**-Keynote Speaker-**

**“New Opportunities for Rural America”**

Tom Dorr, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development

1:30 p.m.     **Conference Resumes**

**“Rural America’s Communication Revolution”**

Patrick Gottsch, Founder and President – RFD Communications, Inc.

**“The U.S. Trade Agenda: Creating New Opportunities for Nebraska Agriculture”**

Darci Vetter, Director for Agricultural Affairs, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

2:45 p.m.     **Closing Remarks**